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International Atomic Energy Agency

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# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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## THIRTY-SECOND (1988) REGULAR SESSION

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

#### RECORD OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna  
on Thursday, 22 September 1988, at 5.50 p.m.

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[\*] GC(XXXII)/856.

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ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

Chairman

Mr. HALIM (Malaysia), President of the General Conference

Members

Mr. BERG, representing Mr. AAMODT (Norway), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. Al NUWAISER (Saudi Arabia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. ZANNAD (Tunisia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. ZOBOV, representing Mr. PROTSENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. STOIBER, representing Mr. SALGADO (United States of America), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. LAVIÑA (Philippines), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. HOSSAIN (Bangladesh), Additional Member

Mr. NANIOV, representing Mr. PANDEV (Bulgaria), Additional Member

Mr. SHENSTONE (Canada), Additional Member

Mr. VILLAREAL SILVA, representing Mr. LASERNA-PINZON (Colombia), Additional Member

Mr. SMALL, representing Mr. FITZGERALD (Ireland), Additional Member

Mr. HOOP (Liechtenstein), Additional Member

Mr. MGBOKWERE, representing Mr. CHIKELU (Nigeria), Additional Member

Secretariat

Mr. SANMUGANATHAN, Secretary of the Committee

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING (GC(XXXII)/GEN/74)

1. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee was prepared to approve the provisional agenda set forth in document GC(XXXII)/GEN/74.
2. It was so decided.

EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS

3. The CHAIRMAN, after referring to Rules 27, 28 and 29 of the Rules of Procedure and summarizing Rule 27, said that the Committee's task was simply to ascertain that the requirements of Rule 27 had been satisfied. The present situation was the following: 84 delegates had submitted credentials complying with Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure, while in respect of 15 delegates the Secretariat had received communications which did not constitute proper credentials meeting the requirements of that Rule. If any member of the Committee wished to know to which category a particular delegate belonged, that information would be provided by the credentials officers, who were present at the meeting.
4. He drew the Committee's attention to document GC(XXXII)/854, which contained the reservations of the Arab delegation's members of the League of Arab States regarding the credentials of the delegate of Israel. He proposed that the Committee take note of those reservations and that they be reflected in the Committee's report and in the summary record.
5. Mr. STOIBER (United States of America) said he regretted that some delegations had expressed reservations about the credentials of the delegate of Israel on political grounds. It was beyond the Committee's mandate to make judgements regarding different social systems or political programmes, or about territorial disputes. Members must continue to communicate with each other despite differences in views.
6. His delegation therefore urged the acceptance of all credentials submitted to the Committee, unless they clearly did not meet the requirements of the Rules of Procedure.
7. At the same time he felt bound to make it clear that the United States remained deeply concerned by the situation in Afghanistan: the fact that it

was not pressing an objection concerning the delegate of Afghanistan in no way signified acceptance of the régime in Kabul as legitimate or as representative of the Afghan people.

8. Mr. Al NUWAISER (Saudi Arabia) said he would like to explain his delegation's objections regarding the credentials of the representative of the Israeli entity. Israel was defying the Charter of the United Nations and a number of international conventions, and it was continuing its illegal occupation of Arab territories, in particular the West Bank of the Jordan and the Golan area. The credentials presented by the Israeli delegate should be reviewed and reconsidered.

9. It was the right of the Credentials Committee to reject the Israeli delegate's credentials simply on the grounds of Israel's persistent refusal to allow peace to reign in the Middle East. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took that attitude today and would continue to hold it as long as Israel persisted in defying international law and international conventions and charters, and continued to violate the rights of the Palestinians and of other Arabs.

10. Mr. ZOBOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had heard with surprise the statement made in respect of Afghanistan. That statement constituted a repetition of the attempt to distract attention from the genuine tasks facing the Agency - international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime. It was particularly regrettable that such an attempt should have been made just at a time when the beginnings of a political settlement in the affairs of that country were emerging. The statement in no way helped that process.

11. His delegation maintained its reservations concerning the credentials of the delegation of Chile.

12. Mr. ZANNAD (Tunisia) recalled that Tunisia was a co-author of the declaration contained in document GC(XXXII)/854, which set forth the reservations of Arab States about the credentials of the Israeli delegate. He requested that those reservations be reflected in the record of the Committee's meeting.

13. Mr. SHENSTONE (Canada) said that his delegation did not share the reservations expressed about the credentials of Israel. All credentials which were technically in order and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure should be accepted.

14. Mr. VILLAREAL SILVA (Colombia) said that his delegation - in accordance with the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States and the customary practice of diplomatic recognition of other States regardless of their political systems - considered it important for all Member States to be heard and to be allowed to participate properly in Agency affairs.

15. Mr. NANIOV (Bulgaria), said that the statement made by the delegate of the United States about Afghanistan, after the conclusion of the Geneva agreements regarding that country, caused much concern to his delegation and was totally unacceptable.

16. Mr. BERG (Norway) said that his delegation did not share the reservations expressed concerning Israel's credentials. All credentials which complied with the provisions of Rule 27 should be accepted.

17. Mr. SMALL (Ireland) said that the Chairman's reference to the relevant rules had made the criteria for credentials abundantly clear, and in accordance with those criteria all credentials which were technically in order and in conformity with the rules should be accepted.

18. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee submit to the General Conference a report stating that the Committee had met to examine the credentials of delegates in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure and containing a summary of the statements made concerning the acceptance of credentials - including the reservations expressed - together with lists of the Member States whose delegates were in possession of satisfactory credentials and of those for whose delegates the Director General had received communications not complying with Rule 27. The report could indicate that, following the practice of previous years, the General Committee considered that delegates in the latter category should be allowed to participate in the work of the Conference on the understanding that for each such delegate proper

credentials would be submitted to the Director General as soon as possible. Lastly, the report could recommend that the General Conference adopt the following draft resolution:

19. "The General Conference

"Accepts the report by the General Committee on its examination of the credentials of delegates to the Conference's thirty-second regular session, which is set forth in document GC(XXXII)/..."

20. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.